



MIKE COOPER
Mayor

July 25, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

ATTN Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Re: GN Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Thank you for taking the time to consider public comments on the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA. I appreciate having the opportunity to share my views on the merger and its potential impact on Covington and surrounding communities.

In recent years, broadband technology has become an essential part of doing business in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. Broadband usage has increased rapidly and, as a result, many experts have raised concerns that our country's telecommunications infrastructure does not have the capacity to keep up with continued increases in demand for broadband data.

The proposed merger will enable AT&T to invest \$8 billion to make improvements to our nation's overworked telecommunications infrastructure. This is a substantial investment that will enable the companies to work together to add additional capacity through upgrades and additions to their network.

In addition to addressing capacity issues, the merger will also expand access to AT&T's 4G LTE wireless network – making high speed broadband service available to more than 97% of the U.S. population. This is great news for our local economy, as expanded access to fast, reliable and affordable broadband will make it easier for small and medium-sized communities like Covington to attract private sector investment and jobs.

It is important to note that Covington will also benefit indirectly from the extension of broadband service to nearby rural communities that have traditionally lagged behind when it comes to broadband access and wireless coverage. We recognize that economic development does not take place in a vacuum and that the entire region suffers if modern communication networks are unavailable to those living in and travelling through the rural communities in our area.

The AT&T/T-Mobile merger will help address growing concerns about network capacity and provide expanded broadband access that will benefit small communities and rural areas across our state. The merger serves the best interests of the citizens of our state and deserves our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Cooper", written over the printed name.

Michael B. Cooper, Mayor
City of Covington

MBC:psk